



RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LYNNWOOD, WASHINGTON, TO BUILD A COMMUNITY RECOVERY CENTER ON THE SITE OF THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER, AS A SEPARATE ENTITY, WHICH WILL SERVE THE GROWING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS OF LYNNWOOD AND THE SOUTH SNOHOMISH COUNTY COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, the City of Lynnwood and its elected officials have a duty to serve all members of the community, protecting their basic human rights, and ensuring their safety and well-being; and

WHEREAS, Lynnwood's Community Vision states that Lynnwood strives, "To be a cohesive community that respects all citizens," and "To be a city that is responsive to the wants and needs of our citizens;" and

WHEREAS, the COVID pandemic has exacerbated behavioral health needs by increasing symptoms amongst individuals with a pre-existing mental health or substance use challenge and prompting the onset of clinically significant behavioral health symptoms and suicidality in individuals with no previous behavioral health history; and

WHEREAS, in Snohomish County there were 232 overdose deaths last year, a tragic record for the region; and

WHEREAS, according to the Washington State Department of Health, fatal overdose increases were most pronounced among people of color; and

WHEREAS, the Lynnwood City Council voted on August 2, 2021, to delay the construction contract award for the building of the Community Justice Center to provide time for a task force to research the possibility of adding community behavioral health services to the project; and

WHEREAS, the task force is proposing a reduction in the number of jail beds from 120 to 84, a 31% reduction, in order to accommodate new treatment and re-entry services for individuals in custody as well as a community recovery center that will serve community members experiencing crises related to mental health, substance use disorder and suicidality; and

WHEREAS, through redesign efforts, the building will be able to leverage new Medicaid access laws in order to enhance behavioral and medical health services for individuals in custody and reduce city medical costs; and

WHEREAS, the proposed community recovery center would be the first and only behavioral health urgent care and crisis stabilization facility in South Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lynnwood has received letters of support from Snohomish County government and the 32nd District legislative delegation to help fund the Community Recovery Center, thus relieving the taxpayers of Lynnwood from bearing the costs of construction and development; and

WHEREAS, with the incorporation of improved in-custody services and community behavioral health services, the Community Justice Center and Community Recovery Center will be a regional and national model for integrated criminal legal and behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, in recognition that the needs of our community are constantly changing, the services provided by the Community Justice Center and the Community Recovery Center should remain nimble and flexible; and

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LYNNWOOD, WASHINGTON, DO RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Sections 1. The City Council approves the implementation of the Community Recovery Center design process as a separate facility on the site of the Community Justice Center, as presented by the Lynnwood Community Recovery Center Task Force on September 7th, 2021. City Council directs staff to continue working with the Washington State Legislature, Snohomish County government and community partners to bring forward detailed Community Recovery Center design documents for Council action.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and approval.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, the _____ day of _____, 2021.

APPROVED:

Nicola Smith, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

Karen Fitzthum, City Clerk